

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S13713–S13793*

**Measures Introduced:** Four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2922–2925, and S. Res. 384–386. **Page S13785**

#### Measures Reported:

H.R. 3819, to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime. **Page S13785**

#### Measures Passed:

***Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act Extension:*** Senate passed H.R. 4284, to extend the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S13792**

***Commending the Soldiers, Civilian Personnel, and Families at Fort Gordon:*** Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 206, commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S13792**

***Condemning the Government of Iran:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 386, condemning the Government of Iran for restricting and suppressing freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly, and for its human rights abuses. **Pages S13792–93**

#### Measures Considered:

**Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

**Pages S13714–44, S13745–51**

#### Adopted:

By 60 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 387), Reid Amendment No. 3276 (to Amendment No. 2786), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S13714–15, S13716**

#### Rejected:

Reid Amendment No. 3278 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2786), to

change the enactment date. (By 60 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 386), Senate tabled the amendment.)

**Pages S13714, S13715**

#### Withdrawn:

Reid Amendment No. 3277 (to Amendment No. 3276), to change the enactment date.

**Pages S13714, S13715–16**

#### Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 2786, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S13714–44, S13745–51**

Reid (for Cardin) Amendment No. 2878 (to Amendment No. 2786), to provide for the establishment of Offices of Minority Health.

**Pages S13714, S13716**

Reid Amendment No. 3292 (to Amendment No. 2878), to change the effective date. **Pages S13716–44**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Reid Amendment No. 3279 (to Amendment No. 3278), to change the enactment date, fell when Reid Amendment No. 3278 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2786) (listed above), was tabled. **Page S13714**

By 60 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 388), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the Reid Amendment No. 2786, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S13716**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time be considered expired on the bill at 8 a.m., Thursday, December 24, 2009, if cloture is invoked, and immediately the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and Senate vote on passage of the bill. **Page S13747**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:45 a.m., on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, with the time following any Leader remarks and until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees; that at 10 a.m. and until 2 p.m. the time be controlled in alternating one hour blocks of time, with the Majority controlling the first hour; provided further, that the remaining time until 2:13 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, with the Majority controlling the final half. **Page S13779**

**Appointments:**

**U.S.-China Interparliamentary Group Conference:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276n, as amended, appointed the following Senator as a delegate of the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the 111th Congress: Senator Burris. **Page S13793**

**U.S.-China Interparliamentary Group Conference:** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276n, as amended, appointed the following Senator as a delegate of the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the 111th Congress: Senator Enzi. **Page S13793**

**Continued Financing of Government Operations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Thursday, December 24, 2009, after passage of H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, as amended, Senate immediately begin consideration of H.R. 4314, an act to permit continued financing of Government operations; that no amendments be in order; Senate vote on passage of the bill; that passage require a 60 affirmative vote threshold. **Page S13747**

**Increasing the Statutory Limit on the Public Debt—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Republican Leader, the Committee on Finance be discharged of H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt; Senate proceed to the measure; that immediately after the joint resolution is reported, the Majority Leader, or his designee, be recognized to offer a substitute amendment; and that the following be the only first-degree amendments in order to the joint resolution: Thune Amendment relative to TARP; Murkowski Amendment relative to Endangerment EPA regulations; Coburn Amendment relative to Rescissions package; Sessions Amendment relative to Spending caps; McConnell Amendment relative to any on list; Reid Amendment relative to any on list; Reid Amendment relative to pay go; three Baucus Amendments relative to any on list; and Conrad/Gregg Amendment relative to fiscal taskforce; that each of the listed amendments be subject to an affirmative 60 vote threshold; and that if any achieve that threshold, then they be agreed to; that if they do not achieve the 60 vote threshold, then they be withdrawn; that upon disposition of all amendments, the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to;

that Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, as amended, that passage also be subject to an affirmative 60 vote threshold. **Page S13747**

**Martin Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, after a period of morning business, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Beverly Baldwin Martin, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; that there be 60 minutes of debate with respect to the nomination, with time equally divided and controlled between Senators Leahy and Sessions, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Pages S13747–48**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

J. Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Richard Mark Gergel, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

William N. Nettles, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

Kelvin Corneilius Washington, of South Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral.

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**Executive Communications:**

**Page S13785**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S13785–86**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S13786–91**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S13784–85**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S13791–92**

**Notices of Intent:**

**Page S13792**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—388) **Pages S13715–16**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 7:01 a.m. and adjourned at 7:06 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S13779.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.